

Battle for Social Insurance Takes Form at Capitol

NATIONAL CONGRESS ON LABOR AND SOCIAL LEGISLATION TO BE HELD IN WASH., APRIL 4, 5, 6

Plan Broad United Front Around Issue of Frazier Social Insurance Bill

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—A National Congress for Social and Labor Legislation to be held in Washington, April 4, 5 and 6, was one of the major questions discussed and acted upon at the February 1st meeting of the National Joint Action Committee for Genuine Social Insurance.

The plans for the conference call for enlarging the sponsoring committee to include many prominent and influential leaders of trade unions and other organizations, and for the formation of the broadest united front around the issues of social and labor legislation by inviting organizations to bring forward at the congress, any measures and proposals which they may wish to have considered in addition to those which the Joint Action Committee has endorsed.

TOWNSEND PLAN

"This Congress," said Herbert Benjamin, secretary of the National Joint Action Committee, "should include the Townsend Plan and other such movements so that they may, if possible, join with us in the congress to plan common legislation. We may not be in a position to accept their plans in full, but it is possible for us to join in many instances against the forces which oppose us."

In answer to a communication from the Workers' Alliance announcing plans for a "National Congress for Workers' Rights" and urging that the Joint Action Committee confer with them before any action to call a conference is taken, a motion was unanimously passed "that we endeavor to arrive at an agreement which will provide for adequate participation by the groups represented by the Workers' Alliance, in joint sponsorship of one national congress, providing, however, that the issues are substantially similar to those around which it is proposed to call the National Congress on Labor and Social Legislation. And provided further, that such negotiations will not delay the call for the Congress beyond February 22nd or operate to the disadvantage of the movement already represented by the National Joint Action Committee for Genuine Social Insurance."

ENLARGED PROGRAM
The central issue around which the National Congress is being called is the Frazier-Lundin Social Insurance Bill, but a number of related legislative measures such as the Relief and Workers' Project Act, the Workers' Rights Amendment, the American Youth Act and a Farmer's Relief Bill will also receive much consideration.

Preparations for the Congress are already under way; Boston and New York have definite plans for local conferences. Arrangements are being made by the Local Joint Action Committee for mass meetings, debates, symposiums on the Bill, radio broadcasts, a wide distribution of the Frazier-Lundin Bill, post cards and other material. The building of Social Insurance Clubs of individual members on a congressional or assembly district basis was very favorably received and endorsed by the National Joint Action Committee.

An executive Committee of nine including F. Elmer Brown, chairman of the National Joint Action Committee; Mary Van Kleeck, and F. S. Kidney, vice chairman; Herbert Benjamin, secretary; Pauline Rogers, assistant secretary, and two representatives each from the trade union and fraternal field were elected to carry on day-to-day work of the preparations for the National Congress in Washington, April 4, 5, and 6th.

Affair Planned By L. A. Jobless Union

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 17.—Locals 2, 32 and 60 of the Public Works and Unemployed Union, meeting in Boyle Heights, are holding their first big affair in Angeles Hall, 1954 East First Street on February 22.

Low admission (10 cents) will be charged so that unemployed and employed workers will have a chance to get together and become acquainted. Everyone is invited. Proceeds of the affair will go toward carrying on the work of the PWUU.

Kidwell Declares For Progressives; Scores Vandeleur

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audience when he declared that in traveling through the country in the course of the past year he has repeatedly been met with the remark that there "seems to be only one thing wrong with that group on the waterfront . . . and that is that the shipowners can't buy them."

He contrasted the waterfront leadership with the official leadership on the Central Labor Council, and appealed to the union men present to cleanse their unions of the elements who are betraying their struggle, pointing out that dishonest leadership was as dangerous to the unions as the Standard Oil stool pigeons who placed the dynamite used to frame the Modesto boys. "Last year there was a motion passed in the Central Labor Council to investigate and cleanse all the delegates," he said. "I agree that certain elements in the Council needed cleansing, but not the element the Council wanted to cleanse."

It was evident that Kidwell spoke with full realization of the serious nature of the consequences that might be involved, declaring that as a result of the step he was taking, attempt might be made to end his activities in the trade union field. "Don't think their attempted coercion has any effect," he said. "I will not yield to threats to disassociate me from the labor movement of San Francisco. It doesn't pay to be associated with the labor movement unless you have the courage and conviction to do what you think is right."

ATTORNEY SPEAKS

Defense Attorney H. Faulkner, in an able resume of the facts of the case, although avoiding the term frame-up, demonstrated that the Modesto case is one of the crassest frame-ups in labor history. Congressman Pelletier, of Los Angeles, Episcopalian member of the California Legislature, Ray Studd, of the American Federation of Teachers, Harry Conover, of the University and Ben Levere dealt with the significance of the Modesto Case for professional as well as labor circles, emphasizing the fascist character of the frame-up.

SEAMEN ORDERED TO CHANGE NAME OF "I.S.U. PILOT"

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moves, the reactionary delegates at the convention "elected" executive boards for each district union.

Under the "new" constitution the power would be taken completely away from the rank and file and placed into the hands of these executive boards.

West Coast delegates—the only ones elected under an honest rank and file referendum—assailed this complete capitulation to the shipowners, but being hopelessly outvoted, their protests were of no avail.

C.L.C. DELEGATES SEATED

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 17.—The maneuvering of the Vandeleur machine to oust the delegates of the Sailors' Union from the Central Labor Council despite the overwhelming sentiment against ousting them has proved unsuccessful. Whether or not the sailors' delegates are technically seated, at the last meeting of the Council they participated full in the session. The plea of Tillman for support in the struggle of the sailors to retain their charter and A. F. of L. status was applauded by the delegates.

Campaigning Against the Foreign-Born

At the present time there are at least nine bills before Congress which call for deportation of non-citizens. All of them are vicious, obviously Hearst-inspired and exclusively anti-working class. Author of one of the most despicable of these is Mr. Dies.

The Dies' Bill, known as H. R. 5921, provides for the deportation of any alien citizen who does not declare his intention of becoming a citizen within one year after entering this country. It provides for deportation of any non-citizen who is a member of or affiliated with, any organization which believes in or advises the overthrow of the government by force, or who "believes in" the unlawful damage of property, sabotage, or the establishment of a system based upon common ownership of property. The intentions of this piece of legislation are so frankly stated in its provision that further comment is unnecessary.

Then there is the Kerr Bill, H. R. 6975, an administration bill by the way. Hearing on this bill was held on April 9 and 10. It is the official bill of the Department of Labor.

H. R. 6795 permits the arrest and detention for a period of 24 hours, without warrant, of any alien whom any employee of the Immigration and Naturalization Service "has reason to believe is subject to deportation."

DRASTIC

This bill also changes a previous requirement that an alien convicted for two or more crimes involving moral turpitude, must have been sentenced to at least one year in prison for each crime before he may be deported for such offense. H. R. 6795 would permit deportation of any alien convicted of minor offenses in the

VIGILANTES DON'T LIKE BOYCOTTING

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the plaintiffs . . . Threatened to kill and murder . . . Shot at the plaintiffs with a double-barreled shotgun."

GOOD REASON

Nitzberg certainly did shoot at them. It was when the drunken, howling, armed mob of vigilantes surrounded his house threatening to kill him.

In consequence of the alleged acts, the vigilantes claim that they "were rendered tired, sore and lame . . . sustained severe shocks and injuries to their nervous systems," but were not permanently injured.

THE COMMUNISTS

The vigilante gangsterism last year was directed against the Communists, who were ordered to leave the county or be run out.

After the tarring and feathering of Green, the decent elements of the population boycotted the businesses of the known vigilantes.

The vigilantes now charge in their suit: "There were in Sonoma County a large group of persons known as Communists . . . all members of said group of Communists became embittered against the plaintiffs . . . and ever since said time, said Communists have declined to patronize or otherwise deal with plaintiffs; and many of said Communists have removed from the said County of Sonoma to parts unknown to plaintiffs."

CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

Ernest Besig, Northern California director of the American Civil Liberties Union, whose attorneys are representing Green and Nitzberg, characterized the suit as "ridiculous" and declared: "I suppose next we'll have a suit for damage because one of the vigilantes, hurt his hand while beating Green and Nitzberg, or because he was injured while applying the tar and feathers."

"This suit," said Besig, "emphasizes the need for a public investigation of the Santa Rosa outrage. If those perennial investigators, District Attorney Coe of Sonoma County or Attorney General U. S. Webb had had the courage to prosecute the guilty persons, the present outrageous suit would never have been filed."

INVESTIGATION

"It is pure dereliction of duty when County and State officials make no effort to punish a flagrant violation of the law and it is plain encouragement to further

Aliens Who Helped Build This Country No Longer Needed By Exploiters

NEWS ITEM

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 17.—Otto Sohkanen, Finnish seaman, revolutionist and California communist, today was to be deported to probable death before a firing squad in his homeland for the part he took in trying to overturn the Finnish government in 1918.

Suffering a broken back, Sohkanen is to be carried aboard a deportees' train on a stretcher. Federal Judge St. Sure refused him liberty on habeas corpus.

course of strikes or demonstrations on public questions.

The prolific Mr. Dies has proposed "two more measures dealing with non-citizens. H. R. 7120, which had a hearing April 3, 1935, provides for the deportation of alien Communists, Anarchists and Fascists, and those affiliated with Communist or Fascist organizations, or believing in the overthrow of government or unlawful damage of property or sabotage, and establishment of a government based on common ownership of property. Aliens advocating the overthrow of foreign governments not Communist or Fascist likewise are deportable.

The third Dies bill provides for the transfer of administrative proceedings from the Department of Justice.

DICKSTEIN BILL

That other super-patriot, Mr. Dickstein, has at least two proposals before the Congress. One, H. R. 5839, a committee bill, provides for termination of temporary visas or deportations of any alien who engages in "spreading propaganda from foreign sources," or engages in unlawful political activity "instigated from foreign sources." H. R. 7221, proposed by Dickstein, substantially is the same as 5839 but con-

tains elaborate definitions, so vague as to be entirely meaningless.

One other anti-alien bill deserves mention. It is H. R. 3989, proposed by Taylor of Tennessee. It asks deportation of "any alien or group of aliens designated by the President of the United States to be in the U. S. contrary to the public interest," upon warrant of the Secretary of Labor. Conviction of two or more crimes, whether punished by imprisonment or not is made ground for deportation.

The first alien bill passed in the United States was the Alien Act of 1798. It was enacted to curb unrest in this country following the French Revolution. It was denounced and defended only as a war measure. Two years later this act was buried and completely forgotten.

NEED CHEAP LABOR

For a century after this, industry was growing and expanding in this country at a rate unparalleled in history. Cheap labor was needed by manufacturers and land-owners. So the United States became an "asylum for alien rebels." Immigrants were encouraged to come. Singly and in groups, they came. And they played an important part in building

up the vast resources of the nation.

Following the Haymarket demonstration for an 8-hour day in 1886 and the assassination of President McKinley, deportation laws were enacted against anarchists. The cry against aliens once more was raised to the skies. But not until the period of war hysteria during 1917 and 1918 did the deportation of aliens assume a mass character.

PALMER RAIDS

After the war came the vicious Doak and Palmer raids. Drag-net round-ups terrorized militant labor and many workers were deported, mostly Communists.

Alien deportation laws invariably have been used against militant labor. Individuals involved in strikes and demonstrations to better economic conditions, for political freedom or against war, have been singled out. In practically every case recorded there was no evidence and no danger of violence or revolution in the near future.

The present wave of repressive legislation therefore is typical of past experience. Economic depression and consequent social unrest gave rise to a powerful and widespread strike wave, accompanied by unemployed demonstrations, farmer strikes and demonstrations against evictions.

The campaign for protection of foreign born workers against these bills, and against deportation, must be centered not alone within the language groups, but also in trade unions. The United Mine Workers of America are opposed to deportations. Other trade unions also can be won to the struggle. The campaign must be broadened to include all progressive and militant organizations.

New Constitution For I.S.U. Permits E.C. Dictatorship

GOVT SEEKS TO PROTECT SCHARRENBURG SHEET

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—The I.S.U. Pilot, popular rank and file seamen's paper, published here has been given until March 6 to change its name.

The order was handed down yesterday by the Federal Trade Commission in Washington. Excuse given was that the I.S.U. Pilot is "wrongfully interfering with the circulation of the Seamen's Journal," official journal of the top bureaucracy of the International Seamen's Union.

Paul Scharrenberg is one of the editors of the Seamen's Journal. The I.S.U. Pilot consistently has defended the right of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific to remain within the I.S.U. and puts forward such demands as:

Build and strengthen the I.S.U.; for 100 per cent organization in the industry; all shipping through the union hall on a rotation basis; for trade union democracy and against reactionary constitutions; for regular union membership meetings; to fight for better wages and working and living conditions; for an East Coast Maritime Federation.

adequate shelter, sanitation, heating and lighting facilities. Clothing "appropriate to climate and season and consistent with self-respect, comfort and utility." Medical and dental care "sufficient to preserve physical fitness and appearance, including necessary devices and appliances and special medical or surgical treatment or care by physicians or institutions of the relief choice, subject of uniform fees as determined upon by local relief administration."

Household goods, "Replacement and renewal of essential household goods and equipment."

"Carrying charges on home owned by relief recipient, in place of rent, provided such carrying charges are not in excess of the amount of the rental allowance for substantially the same housing."

The new Marcantonio Bill provides for enforcement immediately upon passage.

Combination subs for the Western and Sunday Workers are coming in nicely. They cost \$3.00

"Attack on Communism Almost Sure Sign of Fascist Trend" Sinclair Lewis Tells Press

Writer of Famous Book, "It Can't Happen Here," Warns American People of Danger

Seeing an imminent threat of Fascism in America today, Sinclair Lewis in his widely discussed book, "It Can't Happen Here," warned Americans that, "Fascism comes on cat's feet, first through a national state of mind and then through some crisis. We have symptoms of a dangerous state of mind."

The "symptoms," said Mr. Lewis in a recent interview, are plainly visible in numerous proposals such as, the Kramer amendment bill, Teachers' Oaths, brow-beating of professors by red-baiting organizations and Hearst papers, and chiefly through the "fear policy" developed by Fascist minded groups who have instigated the proposals.

"FEAR" PROPAGANDA
Characterizing the policy of the "Fear" propaganda toward Communism as the most dangerous threat to Democracy at present, Lewis states, "... There's not the slightest danger from Communism . . . The danger is from exploiting groups that endow them with frightfulness . . . An attack on Communism is almost a sure sign of Fascist-mindedness."

At the same time motion picture directors were gingerly handling the scenario "It Can't Happen Here," for fear of causing "international complications" . . . and fear of offending Mussolini and Hitler, the leaders of "friendly powers."

Sydney Howard, playwright who prepared the script for the picture reported to Lewis, "Mr. Hays told the producers he didn't know which way the next elections might go, and he certainly did not intend to offend the Republicans . . ."

INCREASED SLINGLOADS
At Pier 15 an attempt was made to force the gangs to increase the slingloads of coffee from ten sacks to eleven. It met with defeat when the longshoremen kept right on loading the customary sized slings.

On Pier 26, however, T. G. Plant himself appeared and ordered the longshoremen to either increase the trailers to three in number or else cover up. The Columbian was being unloaded at the time. Apparently hoping to "scare" the men, only one gang was fired at first. The other gangs, however, refused to be scared into any speed-up and they were also discharged.

NOTHING DOING

Undaunted the men stuck their hooks in their belts and walked off the pier. "They'll never get us to go back to the miserable pre-strike man-killing speed-up system," one of the gang stewards stated as the men left for the I.L.A. hiring hall.

This statement represents the unanimous sentiment of the local longshoremen who are determined under no circumstances to allow the return of the evil "blue book union" days in any shape or disguise.

Leads Jobless, Marcantonio Is Slugged, Jailed

CONGRESSMAN, 8 OTHERS ARRESTED IN ATTACK ON DEMONSTRATION

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—Congressman Vita Marcantonio, (R., N. Y.) Saturday was slammed by police and arrested while leading a demonstration of 12,000 WPA workers.

Demonstrators had sought and had been refused a permit to parade. At a mass meeting preceding the parade Marcantonio, one of the main speakers, called for the march. Demonstrators were met by a cordon of some 200 police.

Marcantonio, in the lead, shouted: "Forward march!"

Police closed in with clubs swinging. Demonstrators protected themselves with any weapons that came to hand. Eight were arrested with the Congressman, but all later were released.

WASHINGTON.—(FP)—Lauding Abraham Lincoln, "the real Abraham Lincoln, an outstanding fighter in the history of our country for the rights of the masses," Congressman Marcantonio, on the floor of the House warned members of Congress that history is repeating itself and "the crisis which confronted Abraham Lincoln and the people of our country at that time was precipitated by the same tribunal which is now precipitating the crisis which con-

fronts the American people at this time."

"Whenever the American worker or American farmer organizes for a decent living," he declared, "the Tories either call out the National Guard, vigilantes, or they go to the Supreme Court and cry 'Liberty' and 'State's rights.'"

Marcantonio, a progressive fighter, was one of those who last year demanded a federal investigation of the Gallup, N. M., miner frame-ups.

IT DOES HAPPEN!
VERMONT, Feb. 17.—It is happening here. Right in the granite hills of Vermont, scene of the Sinclair Lewis novel, "It Can't Happen Here," hired thugs beat up workers, strangers have been slugged into insensibility, labor organizations are destroyed by terrorism, poverty is widespread and relief slight, and bosses prosper.

Three months ago 600 workers went on strike, demanding a living wage and recognition of their unions. Fascist terror followed.

However, in Hollywood, executives at the MGM studios said they had not been informed of any "ban" from the Hays office in regard to the film "It Can't Happen Here."

The picture was scheduled to go before the cameras next weekend, unless informed otherwise, "preparations will continue."

MOBILE SAILORS BACK PACIFIC COAST SEAMEN
MOBILE, Ala., Feb. 14.—Refused the use of their own union hall, by Business Agent Ross, 256 members of the Eastern and Gulf Sailors' Association met in the Labor Temple instead and went on record as unanimously opposed to attempts of the I.S.U. convention to reinstate Paul Scharrenberg in the Sailors' Union of the Pacific.

The Mobile branch meeting endorsed the Gulf Maritime Federation and voted to send delegates to its next meeting.

Business Agent Ross, declared the meeting "illegal" and refused fronts the American people at this time."

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U. S. PREPARES FOR CONFLICT AS HUGE APPROPRIATION IS VOTED

Japanese Aggression in Mongolia Intended To Halt Franco-Soviet Peace Pact

(Continued from Page 1)

solidate American influence against Britain and to draft a unified program for the suppression of unrest.

THE ORIENT

Threat to American capitalist interests in the Orient comes from the growing revolutionary strength of the Chinese people, and from Japan, who not only proposes to suppress the Chinese revolution, but to drive out American influence as well.

By its under-cover financing of the dictatorship of Chiang-Kai-shek, American capitalism has long played the major role in suppressing the Communist movement and Central China. Failure of the mercenary troops of Chiang to accomplish this task brings a situation where, unless America is prepared to march in with her own troops, Japan will undertake the task. In this event, she would not only suppress Communism, but throttle American influence.

Observers believe that the United States would never openly declare an aggressive war against Chinese Communism. Rather, it is believed, she would lend her armed forces to the Chinese Nationalist government under the guise of "insuring China's independence." This course would tend to direct aggression Northward, toward the border of the U.S.S.R.

Meanwhile, American troops, under the slogan of "insuring Chinese independence" would be used to suppress the Chinese masses.

COMMON FEAR

Actual conflict between American and Japanese forces is not considered likely, inasmuch as both capitalist powers, despite their enmity, are more fearful of the powers of Communism than they are of each other.

If such a maneuver could be achieved (and observers believe an attempt is likely), Japan would invade the Soviet Union, while America would police South and Central China. Enmity between

mob action.

"We will ask Senator Van Nuys of Indiana to include full investigation of the Santa Rosa affair in his Senatorial Committee's investigation of mob violence and lynching."

Standard Relief Asked in Bill By Rep. Marcantonio

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—While Mayor La Guardia and city police were refusing to permit 25,000 jobless to march in a city-wide demonstration for increased relief, Vito Marcantonio, militant N. Y. Representative introduced a six billion dollar "Federal Relief and Work Projects Standards Act."

The new bill declares the following to be the "minimum standards of direct relief: Housing "sufficient to provide

CRISIS NEARING IN ITALY-ETHIOPIAN ADVENTURE IS FAILING

The "Labor Clarion" In The Guise of Mr. Hearst

How an Editor Falsified a Document to Further a Union-Wrecking Plan

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issued by the Communist Party and attempting to make it mysterious by writing in things that were not contained in the original.

For example, the document which the Labor Clarion presents to its readers as a secret plot, secretly distributed, was published in No. 5 of a monthly News Letter for December, 1935. Here is how the editor distorts it:

VERY SECRET

Instructions to all Sections. Must be followed without deviation. Program adopted at the State Communist Party Convention in San Francisco, November 24th, 1935.

WHOSE SECRET?

What was issued publicly in a news letter is made into a secret by the editor of the Labor Clarion. Just why Hearst and others follow this stupid method is a mystery. For example, the "secret" document advises all members of the Communist Party to "stimulate the fight through the A. F. of L. for providing union rates of pay on all WPA projects and work towards the organization of the relief workers into the A. F. of L." According to the editor, this seems to be "red propaganda." But if he is against organizing the unorganized into the A. F. of L., let him come out and state his reasons. To dismiss it by saying "He's a Communist" is merely playing Hearst's game.

Another proposal in this so-called "secret document" is that every member of the Communist Party should distribute the pamphlet, "A New Phase for American Labor." This pamphlet contains the speeches of John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America and of Frank J. Murphy, president of the Textile Workers' Union of America, made at the 35th Annual Convention of the A. F. of L. Lewis spoke for industrial unionism, for organizing the unorganized, and against the growing fascist tendency in America. Murphy spoke for the formation of a Farmer-Labor Party.

SHOULD BE FRANK

Is it a "secret red plot" to distribute speeches made by trade union leaders at an A. F. of L. convention? Or is the editor trying to impress his readers with the fact that he is trying to advocate industrial unionism, organize the unorganized, and to form a Farmer-Labor Party? If the editor is opposed to the movements, why doesn't he say so frankly, and state his reasons?

Another proposal in this so-called "secret" document is that all progressive forces should "carry on a persistent campaign in all unions for affiliation to the State Federation of Labor." Is the editor of the "Labor Clarion" against this too?

We would like to reprint the entire document but space limitations forbid. The original document in listing a number of papers and bulletins gotten out by various progressive groups in different unions, stated:

"Below is a partial list of the Rank and File bulletins now being issued in the State." But the Labor Clarion editor had to distort this too, so that he printed the following: "Below is a partial list of the Rank and File bulletins now being issued by our party sections through out the state." This is pure forgery.

The specific purpose behind the appearance of this faked document at this time in the "Labor Clarion," crude as it is, is to win support of the union-smashing program now being carried out by Green's agent, Joe Casey, who is attempting to establish a dictatorship of reactionaries over progressives in

the Central Trades and Labor Council at San Diego. Conveniently enough, this distortion appears in the "Labor Clarion" as a reprint from the San Diego "Labor Leader," under the able, if unscrupulous guidance of Joe Casey, who was faced with the task of inventing a reason why the Trades Council charter should be revoked. The "Labor Clarion" discloses this very clearly when it says: "It will be recalled that the American Federation of Labor was compelled some time ago to remove the officials of the Central Labor Body of that city because of internal dissensions brought about by 'red' activities."

ACTUAL REASONS

What the "Labor Clarion" fails to tell its readers is that the first reason given for removing all officers of the San Diego Labor Council, and ordering a new election, was that representation to that body consisting of five delegates from each affiliated organization, was contrary to the laws laid down by the A. F. of L. Nevertheless, the representation objected to had been the custom in San Diego for more than 20 years. However, when Casey found out through the new elections of delegates that the even greater majority—that 33 unions out of 38, representing nearly 90 percent of the entire membership—were for retaining their leaders and the progressive program—then the old red herring was dragged out.

"The Constitution be damned," said Casey and he proceeded to abolish meetings and to set up his own dictatorship.

HIT DEMOCRACY

Whenever the Rank and File demands the right to elect democratically its delegates and officials, and demands from the officials before they are elected that they state their position on the issue of the day—whenever the Rank and File does this—it is "red activity." And if, when they cannot get their opinions published in the official organ, such as the Labor Clarion, and they publish their own poverty-stricken little mimeographed sheets, they are "Communists."

The editorial of this anniversary issue of the Labor Clarion has not one word to say of the widely-known, widely publicized, planned attack of the shipowners and the Industrial Association against the maritime unions. Instead, it talks about "a better and more tolerant spirit on the part of both capital and labor." It declares that "the present year may see the back-bone of the depression broken." And the editor again dips his pen in the Hearst-red-baiting ink-well and labels the struggle going on within the trade unions (presumably the Sailors Union) of a Communist plot to gain control of these unions.

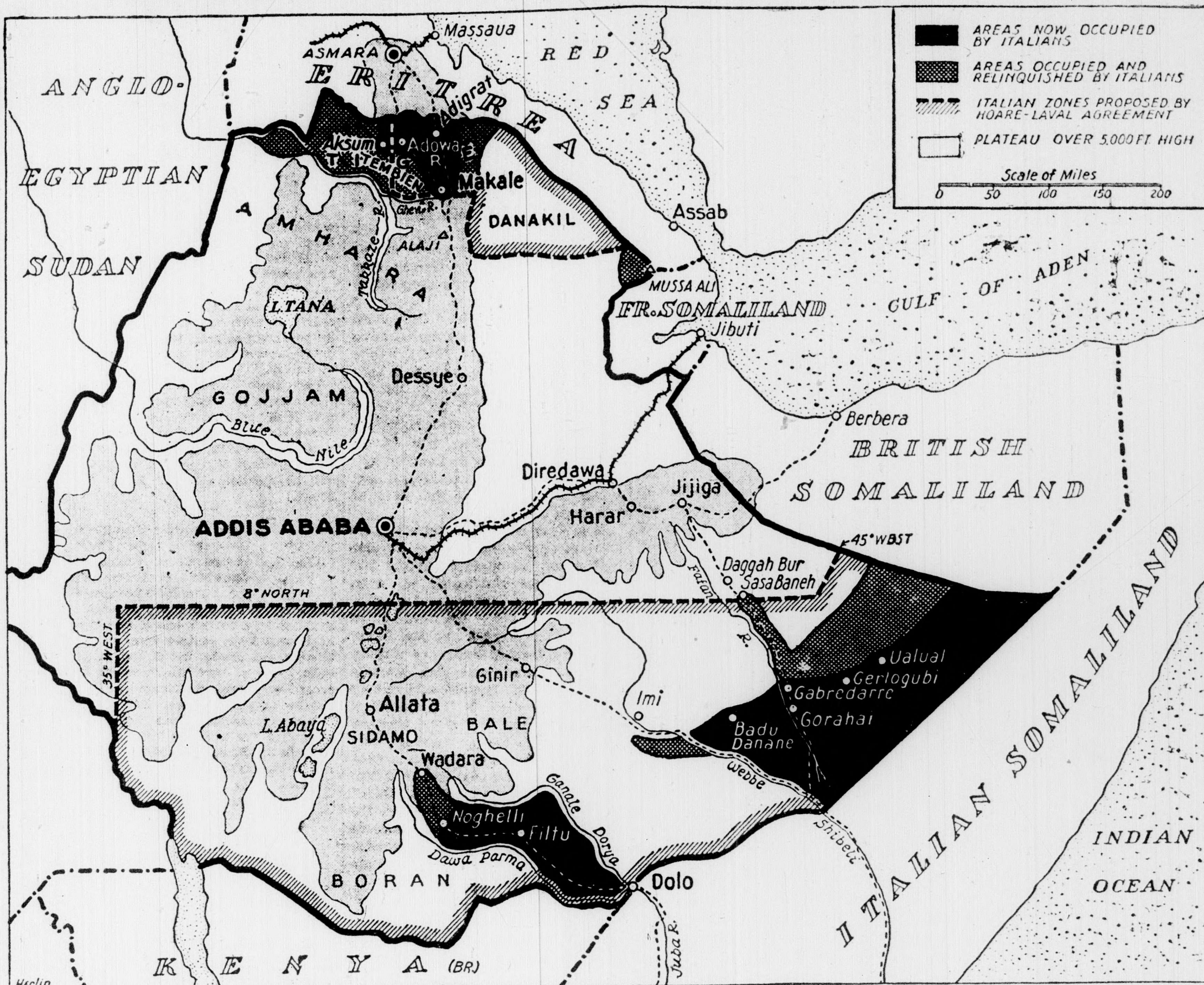
TRUTH WILL OUT

One statement in the editorial we heartily endorse, but when the editor wrote it he must have had his fingers crossed. He wrote: "The American Federation is a democratic organization; if its laws and policies are unsatisfactory to certain unions or individuals these can be changed in the prescribed method."

This is exactly what the Rank and File in the Sailors Union is trying to do—and has done. But the shipowners have more power over, and their decisions more weight with Victor Olander and Paul Scharrenberg, than do the principles of the A. F. of L. or the voice of the membership of the International Seamen Union. The public utilities and the San Diego Chamber of Commerce were the main critics of the San Diego Trades and Labor Council and this had more weight with Casey than the democratic principles of the A. F. of L. or the opinion of 90 per cent of the members of the trade union movement of that city.

Seemingly, the only reason for printing this enlarged anniversary edition of the "Labor Clarion" was to hide the union-splitting policy of Scharrenberg and Casey under a typical Hearstian red smoke screen.

The Results of the Insane Conquest By Italian Imperialism



The extent of the disaster which has overtaken Italian troops in the African invasion can be judged from the above map. After four months of fighting, the northern armies have not yet penetrated as far as the ill-fated invasion of 1896. Compare the graphic facts portrayed above with the extravagant accounts of victories and advances which appear constantly in the Hearst press. It will be seen from the map that the Italian army has been driven back from at least a third of the territory it has occupied to date.

The Criminal Syndicalism Prisoners And the Force and Violence Charge

ACCUSATIONS THAT COMMUNISTS INDULGE IN OR ADVOCATE VIOLENCE ARE LIES

When Pat Chambers, now prisoner No. 5789 at San Quentin penitentiary, made his final argument to the jury in the Sacramento Criminal Syndicalism trial last year, he said:

"No strike leader will incite violence. Calling a strike is a great responsibility. I want to point out that if any of these strikes (Note: He was on trial for leading agricultural strikes. Ed.) had not been conducted correctly by us, not only growers would have been the first to do so. Yet not a single worker came forward to testify against the organization."

LEARN THE TRUTH

"You yourselves are more or less sheltered. I ask you, irrespective of your decision in this case, to do one thing. Go to the agricultural fields and see for yourselves how miserable the conditions of life are there. You will see children with the terrible imprint of hunger on their faces."

"I swore to fight against all organizations that use their power to browbeat the poor. I swore above all that these children would not go hungry. I have seen so much misery,

starvation, brutality; I am glad I took part to a small extent in the struggle against them and against the banks that caused them. They now want to force wages back to the same levels as before the strike. "In sentencing you 14 men and women to jail, you are sounding the opening gun in an attack on the wages of these workers."

UNION LEADER

This was the word of a man who fought shoulder to shoulder with the agricultural workers in their struggle to obtain a decent standard of living. Chambers was the organizer of the Cannery and Agricultural Workers' Industrial Union. He was also a member of the Communist Party. He was sent to the penitentiary, together with seven others, for a term of one to fourteen years, not for having committed any violence, but for having "conspired to commit violence."

And that is what the California Criminal Syndicalism law purports to cover. It reads in part: "The term 'Criminal syndicalism' as used in this act is hereby defined as any doctrine or precept advocating, teaching or aiding and abetting the commission of crime, sabotage (which word is

SHOT DOWN BY VIGILANTES



Mexican cotton picker shot down in the Pixley massacre during the great cotton strike of 1933. Three men were killed and many wounded in that day of terror when growers' vigilantes attacked the strikers. Not a single vigilante or employer was harmed.

hereby defined as meaning wilful and malicious physical damage or injury (to physical property), or unlawful acts of force and violence or unlawful methods of terrorism as a means of accomplishing a change in industrial ownership or control, or effecting any political change."

MAJOR ISSUE

With the issue of violence prominently thrust to the public attention by the Hearst and other capitalist papers, the Criminal Syndicalism Act and the eight young people imprisoned under its terms become matters of first-rate importance. This is especially so in view of the flagrant accusations that the men of the Pacific Coast maritime unions are plotting violence against the shipowners.

We do not have to take the word of Pat Chambers for either the conditions of the agricultural workers or the true activities of his union. Prominent clergymen, social workers and government investigators have deplored these conditions in language as vigorous as that of any Communist.

THE PROOF

As for activities of his union, we can cite the evidence of the C. S. trial itself. The whole history of labor struggles in the state was brought into that trial and not one single act of violence could be cited against the workers. What the evidence did show was that whenever workers exert their economic power and strike, the industrial owners resort to all conceivable violence and terrorism to break their picket lines, disrupt their organiza-

Imminence of Revolution In Italy Fear of Powers

COULD HALT ITALY, BUT TO DO SO WOULD END CAPITALISM

The invasion of Ethiopia has failed and revolution is imminent in Italy. That is the simple, blunt truth of the problem that has created world-wide alarm through-out capitalist governments. And it is the answer to all the worried maneuvering of the League of Nations.

Had the invasion been successful, the international problem would have been no less, but of a different character. The blundering adventure of Mussolini has already set off revolutions in both Egypt and Syria and seriously disrupted practically all previous pacts and alignments of capitalist powers.

SWIFT CHANGE

A few months ago the desire of Britain, France and the U. S. A. was to halt or curtail the African war which was adversely affecting the financial interests of all. Today the situation has changed. Mussolini himself is frantically searching for a means of escape from his disastrous adventure.

To call off the war and admit defeat would inevitably result in the collapse of his government and probably in a revolution.

LAST RESORT

To press the war farther will most certainly result in revolution.

The only means open to this "Mad dog of Europe" is to plunge Italy into conflict with other European powers, thus distracting attention from the African failure, giving him an excuse to withdraw the invading troops, and providing him with the thin hope that he may be able to preserve Italian fascism in the resultant turmoil.

Even this course, however, does not banish the ever-present bogey of revolution.

STAGGERING COST

It is true that had Italy the necessary finances and the support of her people, she could by many years of warfare accomplish her objective in Ethiopia. Under the present circumstances, this is out of the question. To push the invasion as far as it has gone has seriously strained the country's resources.

The problem as viewed by other capitalist powers is one of unrelieved gloom. They cannot afford to have Italy competing with them in the field of imperialism. This was one of their early alarms at the outset of the war.

Still less do they relish the prospect of Italy precipitating a general European conflict.

CHIEF ALARM

But serious as these dangers are, the prospect of revolution within Italy terrifies them even more.

To see Italy torn by civil strife, the Duce overthrown and another capitalist administration installed in his place would not disturb the world capitalists. What concerns them is the fact that the revolution, which threatens Italy, is a revolution of the people which would overthrow not merely the Duce and his regime but fascism and the whole capitalist system. It would mean the establishment of a Soviet Italy.

KEY WORD

The word "revolution" thus becomes the key to every maneuver

mon ownership and operation of industry for the common good. It contends that when this point is reached, the private capitalist owners will repudiate democracy and try to prevent this change by force and violence and that it will be necessary for the working people to suppress them by force.

DISTORTION

It was by distorting and misrepresenting this view that the prosecutors succeeded in bewildering the jury in that trial into convicting eight of the defendants on the charge of "conspiracy."

The real reason for the trial and the convictions was to suppress the Cannery and Agricultural Workers' Industrial Union. Complete story of the C. S. railroad trial will be found in the 5c-pamphlet, "THE C. S. CASE AGAINST LABOR," published by the International Labor Defense.

of capitalist powers in regard to Italy. The problem which confronts them is two-fold and may be stated thus:

1. How to prevent the collapse of fascism in Italy.
2. How to prevent Mussolini, in his desperate straits, from striking out belliciously and precipitating a world war.

NOT YOUR PROBLEM

That is the problem which confronts capitalism and involves the United States just as surely as any other power. But it is not the problem which confronts you. It is not the problem which concerns the working classes of all countries.

What concerns you is that Italian capitalism is facing collapse and is seeking to preserve itself by launching new wars. Your problem is to prevent war—to prevent Italian capitalism from resorting to this catastrophic "way out."

CAPITALISM WON'T

The capitalist powers could easily prevent this by the application of full economic sanctions and particularly the oil embargo. They will not do this, however, because it would result in the collapse of Italian capitalism. They themselves would rather see war than preserve peace at such a cost.

NO COST TO YOU

To you, the collapse of Italian capitalism would be no "cost" at all. You have no such fear to hamper you in your desire to prevent war.

By bringing mass pressure to bear on capitalist governments, the working class of the world can influence TO A CERTAIN EXTENT the course of international diplomacy. This pressure must be exerted. But it is not the final word of working class power.

REAL POWER

The final word of the working class rests in the hand of Labor. Capitalist powers may sell oil, raw materials or manufactured armaments to belligerent powers, but it is the hand of labor that makes the delivery. Labor must refuse to manufacture, transport or handle in any way the materials of war. Working class embargoes must be effective where capitalist embargoes fail.

It is the familiar practice of capitalist nations to make a show of yielding to the demands of the people by imposing partial embargoes. A boat with a hole in it is the same as no boat at all. EMPARGOES MUST BE COMPLETE.

CAUSES

In passing, it is well to point out that the revolutionary situation in Italy is not a direct result of the African invasion or of its failure. The growing discontent of the Italian masses was what drove Mussolini to the wild adventure in the first place.

It must also be observed that world capitalist powers will do everything they can to meet this situation by directing the belligerence of Italian capitalism toward the U.S.S.R. The recently reported pact between Germany and Italy may well be a step in this direction.

"White Collar" Jobs Created Under WPA

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 10.—Launching of "white collar" jobs for 35,000 unemployed workers in Los Angeles County under WPA awaited final approval here today by Comptroller J. L. McCarl.

Projects are to include maintenance of libraries, beaches, street-cleaning work and specialized commodity projects such as shoe-repairing.

LACRA officials stated this project was expected to reduce the present relief load of 30,000 family heads on the rolls.

DEFEAT SALES TAX

PORTLAND, Ore.—(FP)—Oregon's sales tax proposal, voted down twice before, received its worst thumping at recent special elections when it mustered fewer than 30,000 votes. The Grange, the Farmers' Union and labor organizations united to defeat the measure.

AMALGAMATION OF PARTY UNITS, SUB-SECTIONS IN L. A. AREA PROPOSED

Boss Smashes Attempted Organization in WPA Camp

* * * * *

BULLY RULES MEN IN BAKERSFIELD RELIEF CAMP

By a Worker Correspondent.

BAKERSFIELD, Cal., Feb. 17.—Workers have been sent from various parts of the state to Camp Poso, a WPA project camp in the foothills 35 miles from here, to build fire trails. They were promised \$55 a month wages, with \$13 deducted for "board, room and medical attention."

But on their arrival in the camp they were told they would receive only \$48, with the \$13 deduction. They are actually receiving no more than \$45 a month, with many getting \$40 and \$35, and \$20 is deducted for "board, room and medical attention."

They do not get enough food to supply a man with energy for a day's work, and they are working under a terrific speed-up system. Fear of being "sent down the road" keeps them on the run with their wheelbarrows.

They have no pillows, and not enough blankets; the commissary supplies nothing but candy and tobacco, and they are not permitted to leave the camp, even for a walk, without special permission of the superintendent, Al Newton. Newton also has authority to deny them the privilege of going to town on their day off. There are two open trucks to transport the men, but they accommodate so few that actually a worker gets to town about once every six weeks.

Since they couldn't get to

town to cash their checks they began giving them to one of the truck drivers, endorsed, so he might cash them when he went. He cashed \$254 worth and skipped out.

An attack of appendicitis necessitated taking a man to town recently. He was shoved into an open truck, without blankets or comfort of any kind, and hauled 35 miles to a hospital. Exhausted and screaming with agony, he had to be operated on immediately upon his arrival.

MOVE TO ORGANIZE

The only recreation for the victims of this WPA camp is gambling and walking—the latter when they can get permission from Newton. Their only reading material is such trash as "True Story," "Western Story," and sex novelettes.

One militant in the camp, Wm. E. Sherwood, attempted to organize the men, and Newton promptly sent him to another camp. Several more of the men followed up Sherwood's attempt. They called upon the State Federation of Unemployed and Allied Organizations in San Francisco to send them a speaker and help them organize a project union.

The speaker (who shall remain nameless here) was sent. Due to Newton's espionage and bulldozing, the meeting had to be called outside the camp. Handbills were distributed and preparations were made to meet at 1:30, Saturday

afternoon, when all the bosses usually went to town. But when the time came and about 20 men started toward the gate it was discovered that the bosses had all stayed.

ORGANIZER "DUMPED"

When the speaker arrived he was escorted by Newton himself. As soon as he spoke to Joe Ryan, one who had helped organize the meeting, Newton fired the latter, refusing to give any reason for doing so. Ryan and the speaker then left the camp to return to Bakersfield. They met and spoke to two workers who were out for a walk (with permission). Newton, trailing behind them, pounced on these two and fired them.

Not far from the camp they encountered Sherwood, who had come over from the other camp earlier to attend the meeting and had been fired on general principles. Newton and Scott, a foreman, had followed him, armed with pick handles, thrown him into their car and taken him far off his road into the foothills and dumped him.

The Federation speaker and Ryan took him to the camp to get his belongings and took him to Bakersfield with them. Sherwood did not get his pay check. He left the WPA camp with no money except a little that was collected for him among his fellow workers.

DIGGING THEIR OWN GRAVES



The militarized unemployed youth of Germany, counterpart of the American CCC, marching with shovels. And where are they marching? Certainly not to jobs. Their future lies in the barbed wire hell of no man's land.

Federated Press Management Is Commended for Excellent Work

Traditional Policy of Handling All News Without Factional Basis Reaffirmed

CHICAGO.—(FP)—The Federated Press, labor's news service, at the annual meeting of member papers in Chicago, Feb. 7, approved the acts of the management in the past year and commended the staff for its excellent work. The traditional policy of handling news without factional bias was reaffirmed. Board members whose terms expired were re-elected and two others named, to be announced when their acceptance has been obtained.

John McGivney, editor of Tacoma Labor Advocate, A. F. of L. central body organ, was re-elected chairman of the FP executive board. Raymond Hoises, editor of Reading Labor Advocate, also an A. F. of L. central body journal, was re-elected vice chairman.

HATHAWAY ON BOARD

Other members of the board are: Andrew J. Diemiller, editor of American Leader, Socialist weekly; Alfred M. Bingham, editor of Common Sense, a Farmer-Labor monthly; Clarence Hathaway, editor of Daily Worker, Communist daily; and Justus Ebert, editor of Lithographers Journal, official organ of the Lithographers Intl. in the A. F. of L.

Carl Haesler continues as managing editor and secretary-treasurer; Harold Coy, eastern bureau manager, as assistant secretary; and Seibel as assistant treasurer. The Washington bureau manager is Henry Zon and the manager of Federated Pictures, weekly mat service, is Henry C. Fleisher.

SUBSCRIBERS

A budget for 1936 of \$17,966 was approved. The annual meeting laid down the rule that delinquent member papers owing large amounts be suspended from service until \$50 had been paid on account. Papers subscribing to FP news or pictures or both now number 110.

The central office is at 160 N. LaSalle st., Chicago. The eastern bureau is at 30 Irving Place, New York City, and the Washington bureau at 1410 H st., NW, Washington, D. C.

CCC BOYS TO STRIKE AGAINST JIM-CROWISM, MILITARIZATION

ALTA LOMA, Calif.—I am writing you regarding the Alta Loma CCC camp at which I am located. It is a Jim-Crow camp where we have all Negro boys and the commanding officers are all white.

We had a strike about two months ago, for better food. We won 100 per cent and since that time conditions have improved. But now we have a different situation. The boys from the City Creek camp have been merged with the Alta Loma camp, along with the commanding officers.

The new captain knows the Alta Loma boys are militant, so he decided he would remove all the Negro boys from this camp.

Composer Cadman Refuses Bid to Berlin Olympics

SAN DIEGO, Calif., Feb. 13.—Charles Wakefield Cadman, composer, condemned America's participation in the Olympic Games in Germany in an open letter to the "press." He stated that he felt "it is not to America's advantage to participate in the Games in Nazi Germany because of the attitude of Herr Hitler in regard to the persecution of radical and religious groups."

Mr. Cadman had been invited to serve on a committee assigned to select contributions for the 1936 Olympic's music festival.

Demos Hold Lead In Registration At Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 12.—Hopes of old-line Republicans again to dominate the registration in Los Angeles County seemed doomed to failure today with the Democratic Party holding a big lead.

In Los Angeles County territory the registration was: Democrats, 201,359; Republicans, 180,185. In the city territory Democrats numbered 176,514 and Republicans 164,884.

Throughout the whole county, 43,547 voters declined to state their party affiliations.

Circulate the Western Worker in your union and fraternal organization.

COMRADE OUTLINES WEAKNESSES OF PRESENT SECTION SET-UP

By B. Ingham.

In applying the theories of Comrade F. Brown, outlined in the Party Organizer for November and December, to the Los Angeles Section, we must agree that the strongest point in favor of these organizational changes is the freeing of leading higher developed comrades for mass work, thus strengthening our fractions, building up our mass organizations and improving our departments of our inner Party apparatus.

While amalgamation of units and building of units on a branch basis might well be carried out in certain territories, the scattered population centers and much open territory in and about Los Angeles, makes this theory in the main impractical. However, we must not cast this thought lightly aside and we can well afford to experiment in closer-in communities and results should be closely checked.

THROWN TOGETHER

In what form do we find our organizational structure in Los Angeles Section? The Section has been divided, roughly into approximately fifteen sub-sections. The plan was carried into effect at a time when our Party here was in a period of mushroom growth. The division of sub-sections was not carefully thought out. In most cases, a territory was slashed off and a sub-section set up. Naturally, due to mushroom growth, and the hurried manner in which the sub-sections were established, the political level of most of these sub-sections is low. A great number of them have not grown since the day they were formed, a number have gone backward. While it is true some of the sub-sections are in a healthy condition, there is certain room to improve our organizational structure to establish our section as a mass Party.

WEAKNESSES

Some of these sub-sections have a membership of less than 30, out of which a minimum of six comrades are sub-section functionaries who are involved a great deal of their time in inner Party meetings. In choosing six functionaries from a small number of comrades who as a whole are politically backward, we find these functionaries faced with a nearly impossible task in making reports, leading discussions, giving guidance to the sub-section membership. This weakness causes lack of confidence of the membership in leaders, a feeling of inability in meeting situations, stagnation, and is to a great degree a cause of our fluctuation.

We have capable leadership in Los Angeles Section, though at present most of it is being used in inner Party meetings. Sub-section lines do make barriers for fraction work in unemployed, anti-war or other mass work. Two sub-sections having the same territorial activity, working on a certain phase of activity are bound to have differences in methods. A mass meeting called in a certain locality and supported by 150 to 200 comrades will have a more enthusiastic response than one called by the initiative in some cases of 20 comrades.

Editorial Note: We have eliminated from this article the proposed plan of the comrade for reorganization of the sub-sections and suggest that his plan be given to the Section Bureau for action.

sponse than one called by the initiative in some cases of 20 comrades.

BORROWED FUNCTIONARY

Selecting a comrade for unemployed or anti-war work from a sub-section of 25 members is difficult because the more highly developed comrades are already assigned as sub-section functionaries. Sub-sections are confronted with an impossibility of finding comrades for important mass work and often are unable to find comrades to function on sub-section bureaus.

I cite the case of one sub-section which for a period of six months was forced to use a comrade from an adjoining sub-section as dues secretary. This comrade was badly needed in his own sub-section. Possibly the most logical and commonly accepted reason for having sub-sections divided as they are at present is transportation, supposedly on the grounds that comrades cannot be induced to travel far to inner meetings of sub-sections. Certainly, 15 organizers would much prefer going two to three times as far to interesting educational and well conducted meetings where they will actually get guidance for their local territory and methods of work in campaigns and mass organizations.

ADVANTAGES

Fractions working in a sub-section of, say 200 comrades, can function on a much higher level. Building other locals of mass organizations would be much easier in a sub-section which already has existing locals, where sub-section bureaus could get a definite tie-up with activity and assign comrades to help in building new locals.

My proposal to correct this is amalgamation of sub-sections. This should be done as rapidly as possible with a good discussion on where divisions should be made. In making divisions, the objective should be to draw into an already strong center, weaker outlying sub-sections. The large number of functionaries released by this change will be a strong force added to our work in trade unions, mass organizations and will strengthen our local unit activity.

In making these organizational changes we must avoid confusion by retaining contact with absorbed sub-section units, by using liquidated sub-section bureaus and departmental heads as assistants to elected functionaries on sub-section committees.

As rapidly as possible, these sub-sections should set up official headquarters, book shops, acquire permits on halls for mass meetings, etc. These organizational changes, plus the possibilities of amalgamating units in territories where practical, should free numbers of our leading comrades to speed up our drive to become a mass party.

WHERE TO GO

ORGANIZATIONS! Get big crowds to your affairs. Advertise them here. Low rates—7c a line, in advance!

San Francisco

ANY WATCH REPAIRED reasonable. Call between 10:00 a. m. and 6:00 p. m. 67 Fourth st., at Zodi's Cafeteria. Watches for sale.

SIXTH ANNUAL I.L.D. BAZAAR, Redman's Hall, 3053, 16th st., March 20, 21, 22. Keep these dates open.

Watch for further announcements.

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS the Big Events of 1936, the WORKERS' PRESS DANCE, on Saturday Night, March 14th. Workers and organizations—Keep This Date Open!

6TH ANNUAL BALL. Branch 119 1/2 W. O. Saturday, Feb. 22, 8 p. m. Sokol Hall, 779 Page street. Union music. Adm. 35c.

FREE EATS

Dance Benefit Red Drum Corps 779 Vallejo Street, Sunday, March 1st, 8 p. m. Music by the Hot Chili Peppers. Adm. 25c Ladies Free Bring Your Friends.

SPANISH DANCE for the Benefit of the Workers' Press, Sunday, Feb. 23, 1936, at 779 Vallejo st. Admission: Men, 25c; Ladies, 10c. Spanish Dishes, 8 p. m. Good music.

WESTERN WORKER JAMBOREE. Sunday, March 1st. From 12 noon to 12 midnight. Special features all day long. Singing, Dancing, Games, Recitation, Instrumental Music, Full Dinner Service, 1 p. m. on 121 Haight Street.

HELP BUILD A CENTER FOR UNION MEN. "LEAP YEAR DANCE" GIVEN BY UNION RECREATION CENTER AT DRUIDS HALL, 44 PAGE STREET, SAT. FEB. 29TH, 8 P. M. UNION MUSIC AND REFRESHMENTS. ENDORSED BY DISTRICT COUNCIL No. 2, MARITIME FEDERATION OF PACIFIC.

DANCE A VIRGINIA REEL; laugh at the musical comedy; chew on candied apples; have fun at the Y.C.L. "I cannot tell a lie" affair on Washington's birthday, Feb. 22, 121 Haight street.

OPEN FORUM SUNDAY, Feb. 23rd, 8 p. m. Speaker Ben Leeger's "Progress of the Farmer-Labor Party movement. Admission 10c. No collections. S. F. Workers' School.

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OPEN FORUM—Every Sunday Night, 8 o'clock. Workers' Center, 419 - 12th street.

Los Angeles

Workers forum, 230 S. Spring St., L. A. Every Sunday night—8 p.m. Admission ten cents.

GRAND CONCERT. Trinity Auditorium, 847 So. Grand ave. Sunday, March 1st, 8:15 p. m. FREIHEIT MANDOLIN ORCHESTRA, 75 players. Popular, Classical and Soviet Compositions. HORTON DANCE GROUP in a number of new Dances. Ticket 40 cents.

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WHY ENDORSE This Guy For PROMOTION?

now if I wanted to," said one worker. "I'm stuck for car licenses."

"If I say anything on the job, I'll get canned," said another.

But these conditions are forcing the workers to organize. They are welcoming the efforts of the American Federation of Labor to organize the unorganized. Many of the Mexican workers who remember the old Cannery and Agricultural Workers' Industrial Union were quick to label the Fruit and Vegetable Workers' Union (A. F. of L.) a fake union, but they were soon convinced of the necessity for joining it in order to set up rank and file control and make it a militant union.

The A. F. of L. is established in Yuma among the shed workers and has already signed agreements with one shed covering 90 per cent of the workers.

OAKLAND, Calif.—Should the Alameda County Central Labor Council endorse a judge who "confers" for an hour with the heads of a company who have a strike on their hands, when he is presiding in the trial of two of the strikers? This question got some fierce comments from various delegates when the Council met on February 10.

Police Judge Tyrrell is seeking appointment as superior judge to succeed the late Judge Wood. A motion to endorse him was passed by the council.

During the debate it came out that Tyrrell and his court clerk visited the main offices of the Moore Shipyard, where a strike has been in progress for some time, on February 8. Pickets saw him go in and observed him come out an hour later. On Feb. 7 two members of the Shipyard Workers' Union had appeared in Tyrrell's court on charges of "assault" and had their trial date set for March 10th.

At this hearing Defense Attorney Gallagher asked the prosecutor where the supposed assault had taken place. "I don't know," replied the latter, and Tyrrell ordered the court cleared when the spectators burst into laughter.

Effective organization of unemployed will aid in maintaining union scales of pay. Demand that your union officials support such work.

Communist Party members, write in about unit activity.

After you have read your copy of the Western Worker, pass it on to a fellow worker.

Special May Day Excursion TO THE Soviet Union SEE THE SOVIET UNION ON PARADE

Conducted and independent tours during the Spring and Summer for professionals and workers. Now is the time to prepare for that long planned trip to see with your own eyes the country that is building Socialism. Travel through an old reliable organization that has the experience of sending thousands of tourists to the Soviet Union and the World over. Travel cheaply and comfortably.

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Jobless Jottings

Some items from the month's news interspersed with extracts from Roosevelt's Inaugural Address of March, '33.

"A host of unemployed citizens face the grim problem of existence."

NEW YORK.—The total number of unemployed persons in the United States in November, 1935, was 17,029,000, according to the estimates of the Labor Research Association.

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

CLEVELAND, O.—100 WPA workers demonstrating against the discharge of one of their number for union activity, were forced back onto the job by police armed with pistols and a sub-machine gun.

"They have no vision and where there is no vision the people perish."

MADISON, Wis.—Police assaulted and beat in the face Eugene Frisco, chairman of a committee of organized unemployed calling at a Relief Station to demand aid for freezing, hungry families. Although Frisco is in a critical condition in the hospital, the relief grievances were promptly adjusted.

"We have still much to be thankful for."

The Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association experienced its best year in history with an increase in deposits of \$177,000,000 and an increase in resources of \$135,000,000.

DENVER, Colo.—According to the official report of the Works Progress Administration, fifty per cent of all children attending school in the State of Georgia are undernourished.

"Happiness lies not in the mere possession of money."

HELIX, Ark.—Two hundred relief workers, many with their feet wrapped in gunny-sacks to keep out snow and cold, stormed the court house demanding paychecks for work on a Federal project.

"This is preeminently the time

to speak the truth, frankly and boldly."

LOS ANGELES.—Mary Weinstein, age 17, a cripple from infantile paralysis for the past eight years, died from lack of medical attention and . . . starvation.

"Only a foolish optimist can deny the dark realities of the moment."

Peoria, Ill.—A post-mortem examination in the St. Francis Hospital revealed the fact that Mrs. Blanche Robertson, age 50, came to her death by starvation and exposure. Mrs. Robertson, occupant of a dilapidated shack on — street, was BEING CARED FOR by the Illinois Emergency Relief.

"This nation asks for action and action NOW."

GRAND FORKS, N. D.—Two hundred and fifty WPA workers gathered at the county court house protesting against the low wage scale on the WPA.

The relief office has decided to issue supplementary relief to families over five.

"We must act and act quickly."

March, 1933, 17 million unemployed. Comes Roosevelt saying, "Our great primary task is to put people to work." Then an alphabetical nightmare spewed from a galaxy of "brain trusters" starts marching into view: CWA, NRA, TVA, AAA, CCC, HOLC, FEA. The march of the hungry millions toward a "new day" slackens momentarily as they contemplate the New Deal's gigantic sky writing: SERRA, ERA, FERA, PWA, WPA. Smoke writing on the sky to save a doomed system. Look! already the alphabetical combinations dissolve before the winds of contradiction. CWA, NRA, AAA, and are blown away. Again the massed millions stir restlessly urged on by their hunger.

February, 1936. Seventeen million unemployed, men and women, find Roosevelt saying to business leaders, "Bring me a plan to balance production with consumption." Roosevelt, why don't you read VALUE, PRICE and PROF. IT, by KARL MARX?

ECONOMIC POSITION OF NEGRO

AN APPRAISAL OF DAVIS' SCENT PAMPHLET

SURVEYS A RACIAL MINORITY

When John D. Davis wrote the pamphlet, "LET US BUILD A NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS," he accomplished much more than a mere exposition of the high points in Negro oppression in America. He poured out the little volume much of the fire and passion that is his own as well as the feeling of a daily increasing number of awakened Negroes in America who have suffered too long under an intolerable oppression. The pamphlet, thus, is interesting both as a symbol and as a thesis.

The position of the Negro in America has never been much above that of a slave. Technically enjoying the freedom and equality granted every citizen by the Constitution, he is, actually, the victim of the most brutal exploitation in the hands of the capitalist class.

DEBT PEONAGE

And today, with capitalism tottering on its shaking throne, he finds himself in a position worse even than were the "good times" of yesterday when he was forced to labor from dawn till dusk in the fields only to find at the end of the year's toil that his total earnings were less than the amount he had spent on food and clothing. These latter were furnished by the bosses—at the bosses' prices. Now thousands, millions of Negroes in the South cannot even get the poor boon of that slim existence.

Today, over half of the twelve million Negroes are denied the right to vote. They starve. And they cannot even voice their cry for food.

This discrimination is found everywhere. They never have been

allowed to work in any but the lowest-bracket jobs. And today, in the economic crisis, even these are being taken from them. The Negro industrial worker has suffered along with his field-hand brother.

UNION QUESTION
Unprotected by unions, they are forced to take wage cuts, speed-up, and the worst kind of sweat-shop treatment—when they have been given any kind of job at all. Most of the unions have refused to allow Negroes to join them. The American Federation of Labor has adopted many ways of preventing this in most of their unions.

A remarkable feature of the craft union set-up is its ability to be blind with both eyes open. For the result of the discrimination against Negro membership in the unions has been the formation of a black cheap-labor pool of great benefit to the capitalists when strike-breakers are needed or when cooie wages could be forced into an industry. This is one of the great reasons why a united front among the Negroes will be of importance in the working class struggle.

UNITED FRONT
An outline of a pamphlet cannot touch on all or nearly all the sore spots in this rotten set-up. If it did it would have to include every Negro in America. For this is a problem which must be attacked by a united front of all the organizations interested in its correction.

And it will be. The scales are too far out of balance. There are too many Negroes with bitter memories of friends and relatives who lie dead; the victims of this economic oppression. And, as Frederick Douglass, on whose birthday the National Negro Congress is being held, said: "What man can look upon this state of things without resolving to cast his influence with the elements which are to come down in tenfold thunder and dash this state of things to atoms?"

The Struggle to Save the San Pedro Cannery Union

(Continued from last issue)

Foremen and foreladies began to threaten and intimidate "our members who continued wearing union buttons. The Coast Workers demanded action. At the meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 17, they elected a committee to represent them to the management and demand that the agreement be reaffirmed. The next morning the committee met the management, who refused them their demands and fired them. At noon 200 of the 250 or more working in the plant struck and began picketing.

We approached the other cannery. They refused to support Coast, at least openly, and signed statements affirming the agreement.

The strikers and their committee having had no experience in organizing picketing, relief, or publicity; most of the work fell on one or two comrades, who were unable to give the strike all of their attention.

Scabs were brought into the plant and were given A. F. of L. working cards, although no new charter was obtained until the second week of the strike. Confusion was bred in the minds of the fishermen, who were supporting us, by the boat owners, who pointed out that the plant was being worked by people with union cards. They told the fishermen that it was not a fight between the cannery owners and the cannery workers for wages, hours, or working conditions; but a fight between two unions for recognition. The Central Labor Council aided the cannery owners and the boat owners by telling the fishermen, who belonged to an independent union trying to get a charter from the L.S.U., that they should go back to work, that by continuing to support the strike they were fighting the A. F. of L. After one week the fishermen went back to work.

Meanwhile, the Party had failed to organize sufficient relief. FAKERS DETERMINED
Seeing the destructive intent of the A. F. of L. bureaucracy, it was decided that the business agent should offer to resign, through the machinations of the Buzzell machine. An open letter was issued to Buzzell on December 30, and was circulated in 3000 copies. The Executive Board of our local offered to meet with Buzzell and talk over the conditions of amalgamating our organization with the little group to which a new charter had finally

been issued. Buzzell said he recognized it as an effort to "drive him out in the open" and declared that he did not have to "come out in the open to fight" and did not intend to do so.

The strike was broken. The warehouse crew broke first and went back. The others followed, after the committee met for the last time with the management and were not able to get a guarantee of no discrimination against strikers.

The Filipino cutters were the only ones who stuck by their guns to a finish. Forty-two of them signed a pledge never to go back into the cannery unless those of their number who had been discriminated against for their militant activity (there were about 10 of them) were rehired. They sought jobs in other places.

Meanwhile, the campaign against our union continued. Militants in two other plants had been discharged. Although many of the workers wanted to support them and strike, we decided against it, fearing the backstabbing tactics of the A. F. of L. fakers. Therefore, at the next meeting after the attempt to treat with Buzzell, the union voted to dissolve and to urge all former members to enter the new union and fight for democracy, rank and file control, and policies which would be of benefit to the majority of the membership.

PACKED MEETING

However, at the time when there was to be an election of officers for the new union, the strikebreakers from the Coast Plant had packed the meeting, at the insistence of the management; and control of the union, under the gentle influence of the Central Labor Council, went to the strikebreakers, who constitute the officers and the executive board.

Since then, the militants have been so discouraged and apathetic that it has been impossible to get enough of them to a meeting to outvote the finks. The cannery owners, meanwhile, have been making hay while the sun shines. Speed-up and violations of different provisions of the union agreement have begun to appear. The militant supporters of unionism have been silenced by the fear of losing their jobs and discouraged and demoralized by the treachery of the A. F. of L. "leaders" in the Coast strike.

HOW A LABOR COUNCIL OFFICIAL BROKE A STRIKE AND WHAT THE REDS DID ABOUT IT

THREE COURSES OPEN

Now let us examine our policy. When the instruction was received from Buzzell, we had three possible courses: 1) Accept his dictum of allowing the Communist leaders to be expelled, with only a formal protest from the union. 2) Follow the urge of some of the militants and apply for amalgamation with the fishermen. 3) Put up a stiff fight to retain our elected leadership.

Had we followed the first course, reaction would have held undisputed sway in the Harbor district, as well as in Los Angeles. A red-hunt would have begun to sweep away every shred of opposition to the reactionary policies of the Buzzell machine. Therefore, it was correct not to consider this policy of submission.

ISOLATION

Had we followed the second course, the fishing industry would have been isolated from the rest of organized labor in the harbor district. Thus the progressive influence which the militants in the fishing industry may have on the rest of organized labor would have been lost. The working class front would have shown one more weakness before the oncoming onslaught of capitalist reaction. Our main task is to unite all the forces of labor.

We correctly chose the third path and put up a stiff fight against the reactionaries, for the defense of democracy in the trade unions. However, certain weaknesses and mistakes in carrying out this policy impaired its effectiveness.

In the first place, we were slow to mobilize the progressive forces against the expulsion. It was over a month from the date Buzzell first appeared before the cannery workers until opposition to him was begun in the Los Angeles Council. We were unable to force any kind of a fight in the San Pedro-Wilmington Council.

THE SECTION

Secondly, the political guidance from the section amounted to nothing in the first weeks of the crisis, and the fraction, yielding to militant, non-political influence from the cannery workers, did not hold to a clear line for retention of the charter, but yielded to the idea of an independent union, amalgamation with the fishermen, etc. These appeared in the form of changes in the

constitution, lowering of dues, printing of temporary independent membership cards, etc.

Thirdly, we underestimated the destructive intentions of the reactionaries. The cannery workers were caught between two fires: the union-smashing, agreement-repudiating attack of the cannery owners; and the scab-herding, strikebreaking treachery of the fakers. Had we correctly estimated the weaknesses of the union—its newness, the inexperience of the workers in organization, the lack of a union tradition and a strong loyalty to unionism—we should not have continued the uncompromising fight to the point where the charter was taken. After we had shown our strength in two different votes on the question, we should have made a retreat, in order to save the charter, at the same time intensifying the fight on the outside in other unions for the democratic rights of the cannery workers. Our fraction would have still maintained a large influence on the policies of the union. The organization would have remained intact, and the morale of the workers would not have suffered. The "Coast" militants possibly would still be working. The union would now have militant leadership instead of a leadership of strikebreakers and company stooges.

PRESENT TASKS

Our present tasks are: 1. Political education and enlargement of the present fraction. 2. The building of a strong rank and file group of the natural leaders in the canneries, to act as a core in the reorganization of the union. 3. Intensification of a renewed drive to organize the canneries and win back the losses.

Immediately the Section Bureau must strengthen its contacts with fractions in decisive unions. The lack of a strong organizational contact between the cannery union fraction and the Section leadership is the main organizational weakness contributing to the mistakes made in the situation.

Above all, we must intensify our concentration work, orienting the whole party to overcoming our weaknesses in Harbor Sub-section and the two most decisive unions in Southern California—the International Longshoremen's Association and the Oil Workers' Union. Had the I.L.A. backed the cannery workers, Buzzell would have been defeated before he began.

Health and the Class Struggle

By FRANKLIN E. BISSELL, M. D.

POISON IN THE LETTUCE

Yuma, Arizona.
Dear Comrade Bissell:
For the past few years the workers in the lettuce industry here suffered with what the bosses and quacks call "lettuce poisoning." The workers in the fields cutting the lettuce and the shed help who trim the outside leaves off are always being bothered with this so-called lettuce poisoning.

They (the growers—F.B.) use arsenic spray and paris green, and several workers have had this in their eyes. Eyes felt like there is a foreign body in them until the next morning, when they are swollen and inflamed. One worker has this in his only one good eye, and possibly will lose his sight.

I have been under a doctor's care for a week and my eyes are not perfect yet. Would like to know if there isn't any compensation law for such cases?

This will be a good article for the Health Column, as in various other industries, such as apples, we get white lead poisoning, etc. Would like to see something exposing these phoney compensation boards, and wise the workers up as to what procedure to take when hurt while working.

Comradely yours,

B. L.

COMPENSATION LAWS

ANSWER:—We are not familiar with the compensation laws in Arizona, although we believe that they are similar to those in California. In this State, a worker is supposed to receive the difference between what his job pays him after his injury and what he received on the job on which he was injured. He usually must fight

to get it.

If there is a large sum involved it is best to engage a lawyer, as it is usually possible to find a lawyer who will handle the case for a fee, to be paid after it is settled. The employer or his insurance company is supposed to pay all medical bills for the injured worker. The worker should insist on being treated by his own doctor, whom he can trust. He is entitled to this, although the company always tries to have their doctor handle the case. The reason is easy to see. Most of the insurance doctors are experts at lying and assist in every way possible to cheat the worker out of his compensation.

It would be of great service to their members if unions would have someone in their offices who could advise members on the ins and outs of getting compensation. If a union man is being unjustly treated by the compensation board, it is often useful for the union to send a committee to the hearing.

POISONING SYMPTOMS

Workers in fruits or vegetables which have been treated with arsenic or lead must keep in mind that they can get a general poisoning from these substances, as well as the eye affliction described by B. L. The chief symptom of chronic arsenic poisoning is a polyneuritis. This is an inflammation of many nerves in the body and is shown by pains and tenderness along the course of the nerves and a general muscular weakness.

The usual symptoms of a chronic lead poisoning are a metallic taste in the mouth, colic pains in the abdomen together with constipation, pains in the joints, and paralysis of groups of muscles.

WE WOMEN WORKERS

CONDUCTED BY MARJORIE CRANE

JUST AS GOOD

I spoke to a woman who works at consumer's research for an eastern bureau about the relative merit of nationally advertised goods.

She said that, besides the impulse toward nationally advertised products engendered by the balmy, there is also a widespread feeling that big concerns would not put out inferior goods once they had gone to the expense of wide advertising.

The fact is, however, that the buyer usually gets less for her money from these concerns. She pays for the advertising, for the expense of national distribution, and the company expects to, and does, sell the product, not on its merits, but on its salesmanship.

Following her suggestion, I tried some less glorified brands and found them usually as good, often better and much cheaper. The campaign against "just as good" is just another clever trick of the powerful big concerns to squelch their smaller rivals.

POVERTY AND MURDER

Death in the electric chair for murder of her starving 2-year-old baby!

"I must do my duty as I see it," pompously decreed County Judge Jonathan Wilson of Newburgh, N. Y., as he sentenced young Mrs. Dorothy Woodward, onetime actress and Salvation Army lassie, to die in the electric chair at Sing Sing the week

of March 16. Separated from her husband, lacking in food to provide for her infant child, the 27-year-old mother drowned her baby last fall "so he wouldn't starve to death."

AN "AMERICAN" FATHER

Separation from her children because she taught them "atheistic and communistic" ideas!

In Bloomington, N. J., heart-sick Mrs. Mabel Eaton, described by her neighbors as a "quiet, refined woman," bid goodbye to her children after Judge Robert M. Grossman had awarded their custody to her husband, from whom she has been separated for several months. Using a copy of Karl Marx's Communist Manifesto and an I. W. W. songbook as a substantial part of his evidence, her husband succeeded in getting the separation decree on the grounds that she was teaching the children atheistic and radical doctrines. Mrs. Eaton is a member of no radical party or group, evidence disclosed.

Legal students declare the ruling oversteps constitutional provisions for the separation of state and church and freedom of political belief. The American Civil Liberties Union, through Director Roger N. Baldwin, has asked a Newark lawyer to offer his services. The case is the first on record, Baldwin believes, in which custody of children had been decided on a political and religious basis.

Damage Claim Won By Victim of False Arrest in C.S. Case

LONG BEACH, Calif., Feb. 4. T. A. Wishon, head of the local red squad, and other members of the police department, have been forced to settle a damage claim filed by Paul Cochran for false arrest on "suspicion of criminal syndicalism."

On January 23, Superior Court, Dept. A, approved the petition for compromise of the claim, whereby certain of the defendants pay Cochran \$100 each, and whereby written instruction was issued to City Manager Randall M. Dorton, police chief, and police officers, requiring them to follow penal code provisions with reference to making arrests without warrants and with reference to bringing prisoners immediately before nearest magistrate.

The petition stated that Cochran was arrested on Nov. 23, 1934, and held in jail for approximately 46 hours without any legal proceedings being instituted against him, and without being taken before a magistrate.

TALKS - DRAMA PLANNED AT 68 HAIGHT STREET

BEN LEGERE TO LECTURE ON MODERN PLAYS

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 17.—Prof. Elmo A. Robinson of San Jose State Teachers' College will be a speaker at the Democratic Open Forum Sunday night, Feb. 23, at 68 Haight street here.

The Sunday forums are a regular weekly event and are becoming increasingly popular. On Friday evening, Feb. 21, at 8 p. m., at 68 Haight street, the first of a series of talks on the "Growth of American Social Drama" will be given by Ben Legere, actor, dramatist and critic. The series will comprise ten talks. Legere will cover the field, from Eugene O'Neill to Clifford Odets and will give readings of important plays such as "The Hairy Ape" and "Desire Under the Elms."

Tickets for the series of ten lectures will sell at \$2 and may be ordered by telephoning Hemlock 0550.

MISSION LEADS S. F. SUB-SECTIONS IN SUSTAINING FUND DRIVE

FILLMORE AHEAD OF WATERFRONT —\$1,418.87 YET TO GO ON CITY'S QUOTA OF \$2500

In the competition between Fillmore and Waterfront sub-sections of San Francisco, Fillmore took the lead by 4 points. Fillmore has raised \$296.82 on its quota of \$600 and Waterfront has raised \$304.87 on its quota of \$650.

From all indications it looks as though only one unit is active on the waterfront and that unit is No. 1, which has raised the major portion of the \$304.87 and is still going like wild fire. The losing section will give a feed to the winner.

The press conference meets

every Friday evening at 7 p. m. All units must have representatives at this conference, which at present is active arranging the Western Worker Jamboree to be held on Sunday, March 1st, from noon to midnight, at 121 Haight Street.

All funds collected by individuals must be given to the conference delegates to be turned in Friday night. It has been reported that a large sum of money has already been raised but not yet turned in. Sub-sections and units cannot be given credit for this money unless it is turned in promptly to the Drive Committee at 121 Haight Street.

President and Missus Invited To an Eviction

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—President and Mrs. Roosevelt yesterday were recipients of handsomely engraved invitations to attend an eviction.

The mortgage of the James P. Gillean home was to be foreclosed today. Gillean is married and has three children. The invitation read: "Mr. and Mrs. P. Gillean and family, Margaret, Mary, Joan, and James, of 45-18 Middleburg ave., Sunnyside Gardens, L. I., invite you to attend and to take part on the occasion of their eviction from their home. Sheriff William N. Brunner officiating for the governor, Thomas I. Parkinson officiating for the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States of America."

4 Killed, 15 Shot When Venezuelans Defend Newspaper

CARACAS, Venezuela, Feb. 15.—When government troops fired upon demonstrators from the balcony of the government palace here this week four were killed and 15 others seriously wounded. South American states are prone to blame present discontent upon "Moscow agitation," but this demonstration came upon the heels of a new censorship decree which resulted in the suspension of many newspapers.

The masses also are angry because the government, notwithstanding the fact that the recent dictatorship is presumably over, has failed to restore constitutional guarantees.

Effective organization of unemployed will aid in maintaining union scales of pay. Demand that your union officials support such work.



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Mass Pressure and the Parole Board

A malicious rumor is being circulated that letters are being sent to the California Parole Board threatening reprisals if that body does not decide on a minimum sentence for the Criminal Syndicalist victims.

The San Francisco Industrial Association and other reactionary influences are continually issuing propaganda interpreting campaigns of letters and telegrams as attempts at intimidation. Likewise the practice of calling for mass attendance at trials and public hearings is declared to be an effort to intimidate judges and juries.

Having clamped a monopoly on all means of public expression, the press, the radio and the larger public halls, the capitalist powers have effectively blocked almost every medium through which genuine public opinion could speak. Hearst is given a free hand to masquerade as the voice of America.

Meanwhile, not content with their hog's share of publicity, they want to throttle what few channels of expression still remain open to the man in the street.

For their own part, these capitalists resort to every conceivable means of working their will through courts and government. They not only carry on campaigns of mass pressure identical to the ones which they now deem as "intimidation," but resort to bribery, hired lobbies and gross forms of corruption.

It will be remembered that during the Criminal Syndicalism trial itself, wealthy financiers flooded the office of the attorney general with letters, telegrams, and delegations demanding that he appoint Neil R. McAllister special prosecutor.

It will be remembered that more recently, wealthy agriculturists exerted pressure on the State Bar Association demanding that attorneys be forbidden to defend Communists in the courts. And yet, when the working class resorts to this same means of expressing its opinion, the ruling class shouts "intimidation!"

The Communist Party and many other working class organizations frequently urge campaigns of telegrams and letters from individuals and groups. At the present time, a united front of more than one hundred California organizations is conducting a campaign of mass pressure demanding that the parole board fix a minimum sentence for the eight innocent Criminal Syndicalism prisoners.

These letters are the strictly legal means by which the public of California addresses the offices of government which are supposed to serve their interests. Certainly the imprisonment in the state penitentiaries of eight young people for organizing a union is a disgrace of sufficient magnitude to merit a letter from every decent minded person in California.

If among these letters some are found which threaten violence if justice is not done, these are the work either of irresponsible cranks or deliberate provocateurs seeking to discredit the campaign.

Neither the Communist Party nor any other affiliate member of the united front to repeal the C. S. Law and free the prisoners either resorts to violence or threatens it.

The capitalist accusers, however, are covered by no such ethics. They beat, bar and feather and kill in their efforts to smash unions. During the Criminal Syndicalism trial, Prosecutor McAllister in his harangue to the jury OPENLY THREATENED THAT IF THEY FAILED TO CONVICT THE PRISONERS "VIGILANTES WILL DO THE WORK." Employers are constantly informing authorities that if the police and courts are not exerted against labor, they will take matters into their own hands and enforce their will by vigilantism.

It is part of the purpose of the California capitalists in raising this cry of "intimidation" to frighten the public and stem the tide of protest letters.

It is not only your right, but your duty to address the members of the Parole Board urging justice for the C. S. prisoners.

The names of the board are: Frank Sykes, Joseph Stephens, and David Bush. They may be addressed at the office of the Parole Board, Ferry Building, San Francisco.

The board has announced that the C. S. defendants cases will not be considered until late in April or early in May. This gives us over two months to continue the campaign of letters.

An Employers' Tool Turns Polite Racketeer

It's strange how murder will out. The San Francisco Industrial Association and the Chamber of Commerce have many skeletons in the closet. Once in a while the bones rattle and the general public is let in on a nice bit of revealing information. That's what happened last week.

John (Black Jack) Jerome has been exposed as a racketeer in real estate in this city. The government is investigating Black Jack's recent activities in view of preferring charges against him of perjury and conspiracy to use the mails to defraud.

Back in 1926 the San Francisco carpenters went out on strike for the closed shop. Black Jack Jerome was imported by employers as chief strike-breaker; he fed the scabs, housed them and put them to work. He was given a "job" as contractor and put in charge of construction of a downtown building. This building became the spearhead in the open shop attack. Black Jack's gun-things and police mingled with touching intimacy and it became impossible for the average citizen to approach within a city block of the building.

The strike was broken. But not until one man, a carpenter, had been murdered, and two rank and file workers had been railroaded to San Quentin by the employers. The Industrial Association had accomplished its purpose. The open shop was given a new lease on life.

The details of Black Jack Jerome's present activities are unimportant. But his exposure as a racketeer brings clearly to light the type of person and the tactics the employers use in keeping the unions down, along with wages and living and working conditions.

The next time the Industrial Association, the Chamber of Commerce or the Waterfront Employers' Association come out with a barrage of lies and invectives against the waterfront workers or other trade unionists, it will be well to remember John (Black Jack) Jerome.

Indifferent Public Health Institutions Deal Death To Stricken Workers

Mary Tontarelli, a San Francisco high school girl, is dead because she did not have medical attention in time. Her parents are accusing a school nurse of causing her death by not sending her home when she complained of a pain in her side. The nurse, an insignificant cog in the public health machine, may or may not have been at fault in failing to recognize the seriousness of Mary's symptoms and acting accordingly.

But denouncing the nurse is as silly as shouting at a mouse while your house is being stolen. The girl arrived at her home at 4 p. m. ill. Her parents called a doctor who did not arrive until 10 p. m. The physician recognized that she was gravely ill with appendicitis and recommended immediate removal to a hospital.

But, "THE FAMILY BEING WITHOUT FUNDS," it was agreed that she should remain at home that night. It was not until 11 a. m. the next morning that the doctor again saw her, when she was immediately sent to the San Francisco Hospital. The surgeon who operated declared her appendix had burst from eight to ten hours before she reached the hospital. She died 27 days later, despite frantic attempts to save her.

Her appendix burst between the time a physician first saw her, and decided to wait overnight, because her family was poor,—and the next day when he sent her to the county hospital.

Bluntly, here is the issue: why do publicly owned hospitals and county operated medical services consistently postpone and delay hospitalization of sick persons without funds? Why do the DOCTORS ALWAYS DELAY—until the last moment—the hospitalization of workers and their families who are unable to pay and have to be cared for in county institutions?

This is an issue which should be taken up and fought out determinedly by every jobless organization in the state.

The death of this 17-year-old girl is no isolated instance. In Berkeley, in 1933, a frantic mother called the Berkeley clinic and begged for immediate medical aid for her children. The stupid bureaucrats, misunderstanding her broken English, gave her an appointment for the following day to see a doctor. Her children died in convulsions within an hour! Again, in Oakland, in 1934, a jobless worker called for a doctor for his father. He spent a week calling for a county doctor, was thrown bodily out of the county hospital. The doctor arrived a few hours after the old man had died! Such examples can be cited by the hundreds.

Since then it has been adequately demonstrated in the East Bay that organized action can get a prompt reply to the cry for medical help. Doctors who add to their code of ethics the footnote that they will get their patients into the county hospital REGARDLESS OF THE POLITICIANS' SQUAWKS, can do so by writing for the patient a letter stating that he needs such care, and sending him to the Alameda County Federation of Unemployed and Allied organizations.

That union will do the rest. The hospital director has never been known to bar a patient bearing such a letter and with a determined grievance committee from this union to back him up.

Alameda County is the only county in the State of California which has seen the Federal and Dental Relief Project in operation as Federal regulations provided. It was instituted solely because the jobless union found out such regulations existed and conducted a relentless and well-organized campaign of mass pressure. It took them a year,—but they got it.

It is necessary to turn all our energies to the central task of the period—to the building of a broad, aggressive Farmer-Labor Party in every town and city, in every state and in the whole nation in preparation for the election struggles and for the decisive election of 1936.

Party Life

DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONAL DEPARTMENT

San Fernando Plans Work to Promote Party Growth

The following is an excerpt from the plan of work, ending March 14th, of the San Fernando Sub-Section, Los Angeles Section.

RECRUITING

Mass activity in connection with our various campaigns will grow and develop only insofar as the Party grows and develops. The recruiting of the best and most active workers into the Party must therefore receive the constant attention of:

1. Fractions, who must continually select the more class-conscious workers of their mass organization.
2. Individual comrades, who must build a group of personal friends, whose class-consciousness they will develop by sale of literature and personal contact.
3. The units, who must help individuals and fractions by holding open unit meetings, selling literature, checking, etc.
4. The sub-section committee, which must maintain a constant and thorough checkup on recruiting activity.

Because not only the education and development of our Party members but also the education and development of the great masses of workers in our territory depends most directly on the activity of our Agit-Prop Department, the following tasks must be fulfilled by this department:

1. Establish classes in (a) Principles—for newer members; (b) An advanced class, for older members.
2. Coordinate the literature sales and educational work so that literature becomes a more useful aid in our work.
3. Encourage and develop the use of leaflets, (a) by the units as a means of public discussion of local problems; (b) by the sub-section, as a means of presenting the Party position in the broadest campaigns.

4. Develop and improve the unit educational so that they become a useful factor in the growth of the political knowledge of our comrades, by (a) All members insisting that unit discussions have first place on the unit agenda; (b) criticisms and suggestions to be sent in to the Agit-Prop Dept. San Fernando Sub-Section Committee.

Note: Because of limited space, this Plan of Work was not printed in full. However, the suggestions in it, especially in regard to the recruiting drive and holding our membership by means of proper education, could well be applied in other sub-sections to their activity, as well as units. Dist. Org. Dept.

OREGON VOTERS DOWN SALES TAX IN UNITED POLL

PROGRESSIVES UNITE TO BEAT REACTIONARIES

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 11.—A united front of progressives defeated three reactionary measures in the recent state elections, including the Jan. 31 election tax proposal.

This marked the third and most decisive defeat the proposed sales tax has sustained and was an emphatic political setback to Governor Chas. H. Martin, who had energetically campaigned for the tax.

The compulsory student bill fee which would have imposed additional fees on students in state institutions was thoroughly licked. The attempt to bar independent and minority candidates from state elections, through the primary election change proposal, was also snowed under by a huge vote.

The victories for the progressives was significant because of the united front between the Oregon State Federation of Labor, the Oregon State Grange and many progressive individuals, who waged an energetic campaign against the reactionary measures.

WOULD SHOOT JOBLESS

TOPEKA, Kans., (FP)—If hungry jobless Kansans raid grocery stores in search of food, the state militia will be called out if necessary, Gov. Landon, Hearst-backed presidential nomination seeker, told a delegation of representatives of the unemployed from all over the state. About 25,000 jobless have been cut off relief as part of the governor's "balance-the-budget" policies.

A Worker Can't Lose On This Investment



Only a Farmer-Labor Party Can Defeat Reactionaries

By Earl Browder

General Secretary, Communist Party, U. S. A.

The movement for a Farmer-Labor Party in 1936 is growing. At the same time, it is confronted with difficult issues. The higher leaders of the trade unions say that only support to Roosevelt can prevent the election of a Republican-Liberty League-Hearst candidate, and that therefore a Farmer-Labor Party this year would be a mistake. This question must be answered sharply and clearly.

REACTIONARY MENACE

The Republican-Liberty League-Hearst combination is the chief threat to American liberties. The main political problem of the day for workers, farmers, and the suffering city middle classes, is how to combat and defeat this coalition of the most reactionary forces in America.

When labor leaders such as Hutcheson and Matthew Woll try to lead the workers to the Liberty League, it shows that they have enlisted under the black flag of Wall Street piracy. They are open traitors to the most elementary interests of the workers. They are paving the way for fascism in America.

But those who rally around Roosevelt claim to be fighting effectively against the grave danger of political reaction. Will support of Roosevelt answer the burning economic needs of the people? Will support of Roosevelt guarantee that the offensive of the bankers and industrialists against the living standards of the workers will be defeated? If they face reality and refuse to content themselves with high-sounding phrases, they cannot give an affirmative answer.

Roosevelt is no barrier to social and political reaction. On every political and economic issue he has made major concessions to the reactionaries. He cut down relief when they protested. His Social Security program has proven to be a fraud. He arranged the auto truce of 1934 which delivered the workers over to General Motors and Chrysler. The N. R. A. did not prevent, but rather accelerated the growth of company unions. Under Roosevelt the vigilantes and lynch gangs have murdered Negroes and workers with impunity. The Scottsboro scandal, whose stench has aroused the protest of the entire world, has never received one word of comment from the great "humanitarian," as John L. Lewis called him.

ROOSEVELT YIELDS

Roosevelt is going to put more taxes on the overburdened backs of the masses. He vetoed the bonus. And when the Supreme Court issued an edict forbidding any kind of social legislation, to the delight of the reactionaries, he did not even dare to risk a verbal attack, let alone take any action against a court which legalized "the greatest

steal in American History."

It is impossible to rally a fighting army of oppressed masses around such a figure, even though the masses are willing and eager to fight if given a lead and a program aimed against the monopolies. And if Roosevelt is rejected, then everybody may rest assured that he would soon forget his attacks against the "autocrats," and go in for another four year "truce" with them at the expense of the toilers.

How does the thing work out? Roosevelt thunders against the "creaky autocrats" and hits out against the Liberty Leaguers. But the Liberty League is composed of the biggest bankers, the big utility magnates, the packing barons, the steel kings. The Liberty Leaguers in steel don't let the workers exercise their elementary rights of organization. With private police and machine guns they forcibly prevent the workers from joining unions, from striking for better conditions.

DEMOCRATS' ROLE

What role does the Democratic Party play in these struggles? It controls Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana—and in all of these states the militia and police are at the beck and call of the Liberty Leaguers. They shoot down men on picket lines; break up relief demonstrations; deport militant foreign born workers. With his tongue Roosevelt lashes at the Liberty Leaguers. But every day his administration and his party yield and submit to the Liberty League bosses, and protect their vested interests no matter what the cost in human suffering, and no matter what the wreckage of civil liberties.

LEWIS' BLANK CHECK

William Green, Mr. Lewis and other labor leaders are giving a blank check to Roosevelt. Why don't they at least try putting some pressure on the administration? Why don't they ask where he stands on unemployment insurance, on restricting the powers of the Supreme Court, on a shorter working week without reduction in pay, on equal rights for Negroes, on all the issues which the militant trade unionists are putting forward? They could try to force him to make some concessions, but the blank check policy plays into the hands of the Liberty League. Knowing that he will be supported by Lewis and Green, Roosevelt will continue his policy of making concessions to the reactionaries.

The workers want better conditions under the Roosevelt administration only when they fought and defeated the attempts of the President to surrender to the reactionaries. When they became the tail to the Roosevelt kite then it was more convenient for him to move as far to the right as he thought expedient. It is not necessary to make any

estimate of Roosevelt's personality to substantiate this conclusion. His role is determined, not by his personality, but by his party, and by the class that his party represents. Roosevelt necessarily bases himself upon his party, and works within the limitations set by it. The Democratic Party has its chief base in the Solid South, the firmest stronghold of reaction in America. In other parts of the country, his party is reactionary in its pivotal centers. In Illinois, the Democrats have achieved the closest approximation to fascism yet seen in America outside the South. In Indiana, Democratic administration has militia mobilized for permanent strikebreaking duty. In New York the Democratic Party is represented by the most corrupt and worst grafting machine in the country. In New Jersey the Democratic leader is the notorious boss, Frank Hague, well-known for his union busting activities.

It is generally agreed that the result of the 1936 elections is doubtful. By contrast with 1932 when Roosevelt had a walkaway, and even with 1934, when his supporters cleaned up the Congressional elections, this year the race will be up and neck. Masses are turning away from Roosevelt. Their conditions are becoming more desperate. They have lost even the hopes on which they formerly lived.

DEMAGOGY

The Liberty League and Republicans are cleverly maneuvering this mass discontent into reactionary channels. They are shameless in their demagoguery. Although they attack Roosevelt's pretense of social security on the grounds that it interferes with their profits, they attempt to exploit Dr. Townsend's movement for old-age pensions, which they will be the first to scuttle. Farther Coughlin is using this same tactic. At the moment when he ostensibly attacks the Liberty League, he fights the trade union movement and everything that is progressive in the country.

If Roosevelt is defeated by a Republican, it will be because these suffering millions, disillusioned with the failure of his promises, were shown no other way to go. It will be because the appeal for patience, for waiting, is already worn out. And above all, it will be because there is no effective FARMER-LABOR PARTY, a people's front movement against reaction that will rally them to the left instead of to the right. Such a party will carry out an effective fight for their interests. In the mood that anything is better than the present, the demand for something different at any cost, the disillusioned masses may fall into the trap of the Liberty League. This can be prevented only by

Seeing RED

By Michael Quin

The United Progressive News, a tabloid paper published in Los Angeles, printed in its February 3rd issue a chart purporting to designate what each of the modern political movements offers to the populace. Twelve different social plans were listed, including Communism. Ten representative categories of the population were listed as column heads and under them a few words to indicate what each movement offered to each type of person.

The answers for the most part were "distorted" and designed to persuade the reader in the direction of the editor's favorite conclusions.

For the aged, Communism was listed as offering "Earned Leisure." For the unemployed, "Work." We have no quarrel with those declarations; although Communist principles go much farther than such terse, unqualified propositions.

For the employed, Communism is said to offer "Regimentation." This is a vague and prejudicial word which suggests the snap of a whip over the backs of slaves. Communism certainly proposes to coordinate the energies of all types of labor for the maximum benefit of the whole society. But it does not advocate the "goose-stepping" of humanity to fit the cold demands of a clockwork civilization.

For the small home owner, Communism is credited with offering "Extinction." This is exactly contrary to the truth. Communism proposes to make the life of the small home owner practical and free from worry for the first time. One of its strongest deals is to make it possible for the working man to own his home.

For the housewife, we are alleged to offer "Coupon Divorces." The maliciousness of this answer is obvious. Communism proposes to liberate the housewife from existence of isolated drudgery. It would enable her to live a complete life, to take her place side by side with her husband in society. Communism does not propose to eliminate any of the desirable and valuable features of home life. It does offer the housewife the opportunity to study or engage in work of her own choosing. On the question of divorce, Communism does not believe that any woman should be tied by law to any man against her will.

For the employer, we are said to offer "Extinction." This is true. Not, however, extinction by massacre, as some would like to imply. The employers will have to take their place in society as workers. Workers will be their own employers, collectively owning the means of production and operating and developing them for their own collective good.

For the large property owners, "Confiscation." This also is true. The vast industrial properties will be converted into public properties, operated, not for one man's profit, but to supply society with its needs.

For the banker, "Extinction." Fair enough. This doesn't mean you will have to keep your money in an old sock. The state will take over the banking institutions for so long as they are necessary during the transition of society to pure Communism.

For the farmer, "Collective Farms." This is true, but needs qualification. There is no reason why a small farmer should slave sixteen hours a day on a little patch of land when modern agricultural machinery applied in collective fashion can afford him leisure and a better life.

For the ultimate consumer, "No Work, No Eat." This is quite all right. Its main application is to the Morgans and DuPonts.

Lastly, this ambiguous chart creates the impression that Communism is the scheme of a group of men who are offering these things as bribes for political support.

Communism means that the working people—all the people—own and operate the earth for their own benefit. It means that the working class is in full command and full control. It is hardly likely under such circumstances that they would set about trying to make themselves miserable.

moving toward a Farmer-Labor Party with rapid and decisive steps.

(Concluded next issue)

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